Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 10 with the following rewritten version:

-- Fig. 4 shows a vertical bag form-fill-seal packaging machine 1, including a forced ejector 6 in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention. The vertical bag form-fill-seal packaging machine 1 is a machine for receiving the film from a supply unit 4, packing a product such as food for example, potato chips into bags, and mainly including a bag-forming/packaging section 5 and a forced ejector 6. The bag forming/packaging section 5 is a main region for packing the product into bags. The film supply unit 4 supplies the bag-forming/packaging section 5 with the film that ultimately becomes bags. The forced ejector 6 forcibly ejects downward the bags formed by the bag-forming/packaging section 5. An operation switch 7 (see Fig. 5) is provided at the front of the vertical bag form-fill-seal packaging machine 1. A liquid-crystal display 8 for showing the status of the operation is provided where the operator manipulating the operation switch can visually check operations. The control unit 20 shown in Fig. 5 controls the operation of each of the drive units for the vertical bag form-fill-seal packaging machine 1 and displays various data on the liquid-crystal display 8 based on the input from the operation switch 7. --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 20 with the following rewritten version:

-- As shown in Fig. 4, the forming mechanism 13 has a tube 31 and a former 32. The tube 31 is a cylindrical member with its top and bottom ends open. The tube 31 is made integral with the former 32 through a bracket. Measured items such as potato chips are put into the open top end of the tube 31 from the measuring unit 110. The former 32 is provided in such a manner that it surrounds the tube 31. The shape of the former 32 is such that allows the sheet-like film Fm fed from the film supply unit 4 to be formed into a tubular shape when it passes between the former 32 and the tube 31. The pull-down belt mechanism 14 is a mechanism for sucking the film Fm wound on the tube 31 to pick it up and transfer it downward. The pull-down belt mechanism 14 mainly includes a driver roller 41 and a driven roller 42, as well as a suction belt 43. The vertical sealing mechanism 15 vertically seals the overlapped part of the film Fm wound on the tube 31 by heating it while pressing it against

the tube 31 at a predetermined pressure. The vertical sealing mechanism 15 has a heater and a heater belt that contacts the overlapped part of the film Fm when heated by the heater. --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 16 with the following rewritten version:

-- The transverse sealing mechanism 17 is provided beneath the forming mechanism 13, the pull-down belt mechanism 14, and the vertical sealing mechanism 15. As shown in Fig. 6, the transverse sealing mechanism 17 has a pair of symmetrical sealing jaws. Each of the two sealing jaws 17a turns in the shape of the letter "D", leaving tracks T that are symmetrical to each other. The sealing jaws 17a mate with each other when the tubular film Fmc is ready to be transversely sealed. The transverse sealing mechanism 17 has a cutter not shown in the drawing. The cutter separates the bag from the tubular film Fmc that follows the bag at the center of the part sealed by the sealing jaws 17a. The transverse sealing mechanism 17 crimps the part to be transversely sealed by sandwiching the tubular film Fmc between the sealing jaws 17a, a process that requires heat in addition to pressure. Therefore, in order to heat the mating surfaces of the sealing jaws 17a that contact the tubular film Fmc, a heater is provided in ~~the~~ each of the sealing jaws 17a, and a thermocouple is attached thereto as well. --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 18 with the following rewritten version:

-- A possible example of the means for changing the belt-to-belt distance is a mechanism that moves a first unit having the belt 261a, the driver roller 262a, and the driven roller 263a, and a second unit having the belt 261b, the driver roller 262b, and the driven roller 263b to the right or left by using motorized ball screws and a servo motor. As shown in Fig. 10, this makes it possible to shift each element of the forced ejector 206 from the position shown with the solid line to the position shown with the broken line, and to change the distance between the belts 261a &261b into any value with the control unit. Then, by adjusting the distance between the belts 261a & 261b while setting the volume of the gas to